Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of accessing a data file in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

in response to a request from a client site for access to a data file stored in one or more physical storage systems at a source site, sending from ~~a~~the source site~~, sending~~ to ~~a~~ the client site physical address meta data including physical addresses of one or more logical blocks of the data file in the one or more physical storage systems, and routing meta data comprising one or more node addresses along one or more network routes between the client site and the source site ~~for one or more logical file blocks of a data file in response to a request from the client site for access to the data file~~.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising storing at the source site a data structure comprising the physical address meta data and the routing meta data for one or more logical file blocks of the requested data file.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~3~~1, wherein the routing meta data comprises next hop node addresses from the client site for each of the one or more network routes.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~3~~1, wherein the routing meta data comprises complete path information from the client site to the source site for each of the one or more network routes.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the meta data is sent to the client site in accordance with a routable network protocol.

Claims 7-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A system for accessing a data file in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

a ~~source site~~ file system of a source site configured to manage access to one or more logical file blocks of a data file stored in one or more physical storage systems of the source site, wherein, ~~and~~ in response to a request from a client site for access to the data file, the file system sends from the source site to the client site physical address meta data including physical addresses of one or more logical blocks of the data file in the one or more physical storage systems, and routing meta data comprising one or more node addresses along one or more network routes between the client site and the source site ~~to send to a client site physical address meta data and routing meta data for the one or more logical file blocks in response to a request from the client site for access to the data file~~.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The system of claim 12, wherein the ~~source site~~ file system is configured to store at the source site a data structure comprising the physical address meta data and the routing meta data for one or more logical file blocks of the requested data file.

Claims 14-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A machine-readable medium encoded with a data structure for accessing a data file in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

physical address meta data including physical addresses of one or more logical blocks of the data file in one or more physical storage systems of a source site; and

routing meta data comprising one or more node addresses along one or more network routes between a client site and the source site ~~for one or more logical file blocks of the data file~~.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the physical address meta data comprises physical address parameters including disk number and sector number where one or more logical blocks of the data file are stored in the one or more physical storage systems.

Claim 22 (new): The system of claim 12, wherein the physical address meta data comprises physical address parameters including disk number and sector number where one or more logical blocks of the data file are stored in the one or more physical storage systems.

Claim 23 (new): The system of claim 12, wherein the routing meta data comprises next hop node addresses from the client site for each of the one or more network routes.

Claim 24 (new): The system of claim 12, wherein the routing meta data comprises complete path information from the client site to the source site for each of the one or more network routes.

Claim 25 (new): The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the physical address meta data comprises physical address parameters including disk number and sector number where one or more logical blocks of the data file are stored in the one or more physical storage systems.

Claim 26 (new): The machine-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the routing meta data comprises next hop node addresses from the client site for each of the one or more network routes.

Claim 27 (new): The machine-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the routing meta data comprises complete path information from the client site to the source site for each of the one or more network routes.